



# OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

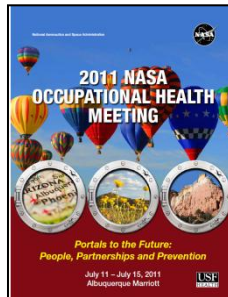
Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer – Occupational Health  
Monthly Newsletter April 2011

[newsletter archives](#)

◆ **EHRS Update:** In preparation for the NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC) training, Dr. Rafiq recently made a visit to the clinic to discuss workflow, staffing, and training issues. The medical and IH staff training at LaRC is planned for mid-June. The AOH EHRS Helpdesk number (321-867-2211) and email address (Agency-DL-EHRS) are now active. We continue to work with SSC and Medgate to resolve issues they have experienced. The SSC Health Clinic has done an exceptional job in the initial weeks of their implementation.

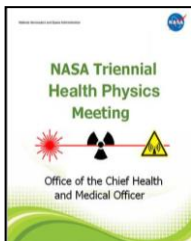
◆ **NASA OH Meeting 2011 Update:** Plans are being finalized for the annual meeting July 11-15 at the Albuquerque Marriott. This year's meeting themed: *"Portals to the Future: People, Partnerships and Prevention"*

will offer a variety of topics in a variety of formats. It will bring all OH professionals together in an environment that helps us better understand how the disciplines work together to provide a comprehensive Occupational Health program. A Draft Agenda and registration information will soon be posted to the OHP website; please be sure to check back often for updates.



◆ **May Don't Fry Day:** There are over two million new cases of skin cancer diagnosed annually, which is more than new cases of breast, prostate, lung and colon cancers combined. To reduce rising rates, the [National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention](#) designated May 27, 2011, as *"Don't Fry Day."* The American Cancer Society recommends everyone slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher, slap on a hat, and wrap on sunglasses. Follow the link for details and educational resources.

◆ **Triennial NASA Health Physics (HP) Meeting is this Month:** There is still time to register for the Triennial



NASA HP Meeting which will be April 19-21 at NASA HQ. This important gathering of NASA HP professionals occurs only once every three years. [Registration](#) is quick and easy. [Topics](#) will cover many ionizing and non-ionizing radiation topics presented by speakers from government, academia, private corporations and NASA Centers.

◆ **A Return of Bed Bugs?:** The United States, along with numerous other countries, is currently experiencing resurgence in the population of bed bugs. While a common problem early in American history, bed bug populations dropped dramatically during the mid-20th century and until recent years was considered a significant problem only in developing countries. Today, bed bugs have been found in 5-star hotels and resorts, shopping centers, movie theatres, apartments and Federal office buildings. To help find solutions to the emerging public health problem, the Federal Bed Bug Workgroup convened its second

national summit recently in Washington, D.C. [Read more](#) on the OH Website about this meeting and the bed bug concern.

◆ **NASA IHs to Gather in Portland Oregon:** The [American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition](#) (AIHce) 2011 offers a comprehensive menu of industrial hygiene and environmental health and safety education programs, from science to business management and everything in between. Every year an average of 30+ NASA Center IHs attend this national meeting dedicated to the Industrial Hygiene Profession. And this year the [opening session](#) will feature Gene Kranz, best known as the leader of the "Tiger Team" of NASA flight directors who brought the Apollo 13 spacecraft and its crew of three astronauts back to Earth on April 17, 1970, after its oxygen system failed.



◆ **Resources for EH Certification Preparation:** Don't forget that OCHMO provides [preparation resources](#) for NASA Center EH staff preparing for the Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and Certified Health Physicist (CHP) exams.

◆ **Subsequent Information Relevant to the Japanese Nuclear Plant Releases and Exposures:**

NASA workers, along with the rest of the world continue to focus on events at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant site. Many people are concerned about the releases of radioactivity and the potential health effects from radiation that plant workers and the surrounding populations may be experiencing. We have seen reported radiation levels in the vicinity of the plant that are quite significant and contamination of vegetables and drinking water. Under the guidelines for public safety that would be used in the United States under similar circumstances, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission believes it is appropriate for U.S. citizens within 50 miles of the Fukushima reactors to evacuate. Although the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency network of air monitoring stations have detected radioactivity from the Japanese reactors, the levels are minuscule and pose no health threat to the United States whatsoever. OCHMO has identified a [short list](#) of resources which NASA personnel may wish to consult for authoritative information. Here are a few;

- [Radiation effects](#)
- [Use of potassium iodide](#)
- [Radiation doses in perspective](#)
- [Radiation Risk](#)
- [U.S. air quality](#)
- [Radiation emergency medical management](#)
- [U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#)



◆ **NASA OH Center Review Calendar:**

- May 2-6, Glenn Research Center

◆ **[Upcoming OH ViTs & Webinars:](#)**

- EH ViTs – April 6, 11:00-12:00 EST
- Agency EHRS Super User – April 7, 11:30-12:30 EST
- Health Physics ViTs – April 27, 11:00-12:00 EST

NASA OH Newsletter is published by the NASA OH Support Office

Send information, comments or questions to:

◆ E-mail – [Bart.D.Geyer@nasa.gov](mailto:Bart.D.Geyer@nasa.gov) ◆ Telephone – 321-867-3473

Find OH Monthly on the Internet at [www.ohp.nasa.gov/newsletter/current.pdf](http://www.ohp.nasa.gov/newsletter/current.pdf)